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**United States Patent** [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,414,444****Britz**[45] **Date of Patent:** **May 9, 1995****[54] PERSONAL COMMUNICATOR HAVING ORIENTABLE VIDEO IMAGING ELEMENT**[75] Inventor: **David M. Britz**, Rumson[73] Assignee: **AT&T Corp.**, Murray Hill, N.J.[21] Appl. No.: **221,152**[22] Filed: **Mar. 30, 1994**[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **G09G 3/02**[52] U.S. Cl. .... **345/156; 348/151; 348/158**

[58] Field of Search ..... 348/294, 333, 376, 373, 348/151, 158, 14; 379/37, 38; 345/156, 168, 169

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A personal communicator for use in a wireless commu-

nication network includes a wireless communications LCD and a multimedia LCD with the communications, mounded on a hinged member, and superimposed on top of the multimedia LCD. The communications LCD is sufficiently transparent to permit viewing of the under multimedia LCD. Each provides visual information to the user relative to the present use of the communicator. The selected use of the communicator is primarily responsive to the open or closed position of the hinged keyboard supporting cover. When the hinged member is closed the communicator operates in a communication mode. When it is open the communicator operates primarily in a multimedia mode. The personal communicator includes a steerable video imager for controllably optimizing image field coverage and adjusting to the orientation of the user relative to the personal communicator. The video imager includes an optical lens set and the imager is mounted on a mounting shaft so as to allow controlled rotation about its axis. The video imager includes mechanical apparatus interactive with the hinged keyboard supporting cover to reset its orientation to a standard position when the cover is closed and allow differing orientations when the cover is open.

**7 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**